

book with the formation of Indiana and the establishment of Indianapolis receiving special treatment on pages 441-45. One could, in fact, quibble about the weight given to particular topics or regions or about occasional sections, such as the discussion of imperial territories (pp. 172-75) or modes of expansion (pp. 204-209), in which pedantry interrupts the narrative. The overwhelming result, however, is wonderful synthesis and thorough analysis. *Continental America* simply expands Meinig's already secure reputation and, by association, enhances that of historical geography.

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American Home Life, 1880-1930: A Social History of Spaces and Services. Edited by Jessica H. Foy and Thomas J. Schlereth. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1992. Pp. [xi], 284. Illustrations, notes, index. \$34.95.)

While "home" as a place is individual, in terms of activities and symbols it seems nigh universal if not changeless. A town or farm family circa 1500 transported into a similar setting in America circa 1800 or even 1850 would likely have felt basically "at home." By 1900, however, such would not have been the case. In less than a century industrial and social revolutions profoundly transformed what "home" meant and was. How and why the transformation occurred are the foci of this introductory book.

The book's origin, a 1989 conference on house history, explains both its essay format and an overall style that deftly blends broad appeal, informality, and scholarship. An introductory essay previews the other eleven by providing an overview of the purposes and methodologies of studying house history. That study and the body of the book itself are divided into three broad areas: "Room Life," "Home Life," and "Keeping House."

The five essays grouped under "Room Life" examine how changes in the meaning of "home" reflect changes in the use, decoration, and even the existence of rooms themselves. Among the better examples are the evolutions of parlors into living rooms, bedrooms from sleeping spaces into personal spaces, and servants' quarters into family quarters. The overlapping social and technological "whys" of these changes are the binding threads.

The social threads become dominant in the "Home Life" section as the focus shifts from architecture to activities. The changes in how families played together, prayed together, and landscaped their homes are the specific topics. Fittingly, these essays, especially the one on the home as sacred space, are among the book's most

analytical. It is also here that the sensitive reader will be most aware that "middle-class" should be part of the book's title.

In the last section, "Keeping House," the technological threads dominate. How houses and housework were modernized—the interdependent arrival of modern utilities and modern appliances—and the resultant shift from a producer to a consumer society are the major foci. A minor theme is the way in which that whirlwind modernization impacted the ability to create and control the real and symbolic entity called "home."

American Home Life is an important book mostly because it is a first one. Students of domestic history, architecture, material culture, or any other related field should find it an enjoyable stimulus to their own ideas, research, and perhaps their own books.

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The Neck of the Bottle: George W. Goethals and the Reorganization of the U.S. Army Supply System, 1917–1918. By Phyllis A. Zimmerman. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1992. Pp. 201. Notes, bibliography, index. \$39.50.)

When the United States went to war in 1917, it was ill prepared to participate in a major European war, and the hurried measures taken could not make up for the years of neglect. The demands of modern industrial warfare required well-trained, equipped, and balanced forces supported by an adequate logistic system, and these are not created overnight. In the end the United States managed to raise and transport to Europe a huge American Expeditionary Force (AEF), which from the summer of 1918 on arguably provided a major element in the allied victory over the Central Powers; but it was numbers and enthusiasm and not better training or weapons that made the difference. To the end of the war American troops overseas relied heavily on allied weapons and supply.

Characterized by Phyllis A. Zimmerman as "a near catastrophic breakdown" (p. 8), the supply situation in the winter of 1917–1918 became especially critical and demanded reform. President Woodrow Wilson named Bernard Baruch to head the War Industries Board, while Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, no friend of reform, appointed Major General Peyton C. March as chief of staff and recalled George W. Goethals, a West Point graduate and former regular army officer, from retirement. In turn March instructed Goethals to consolidate War Department logistics into a single purchase, storage, and traffic division.

Goethals, who had achieved his considerable reputation supervising construction of the Panama Canal, was unable to achieve